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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,112	11/13/2003	George H. Corrigan	10010484-2	7670

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER	
NGUYEN, LAM S	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
2853	

DATE MAILED: 04/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/712,112	CORRIGAN, GEORGE H.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	LAM S. NGUYEN	2853	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *08 April 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *4 and 6* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *4* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *6* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *13 November 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

The indicated allowability of claim 6 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Sculley et al. (US 6054874). As a result, the previous final office action has been withdrawn and rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the coupling of the selected switch between the internal power supply path and the first terminal of the selected firing resistor in claim 6 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will

be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Because if the selected switch is coupled between the internal power supply path and the first terminal of the selected firing resistor, the drive line cannot provide the offset voltage to the feedback line and the second terminal of the selected firing resistor through the selected switch.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bohorquez (US 5357081) in view of Suzuki (US 4514737), Doluca (US 6208127), and Sculley et al (US 6054874) (*The rejection has been made with assumption that the selected switch is coupled between the internal power supply path and the second terminal of the firing resistor*).

Bohorquez discloses a fluid ejection device comprising:

an internal power supply path (*FIG. 3: The power line with the resistor Rp*);

a power regulator or a power delivery control loop (*FIG. 3, element 20*) providing an offset voltage (*FIG. 3: The voltage at the positive input of element 16*) from a feedback voltage;

a group of nozzles (*column 1, lines 25-35*);

a corresponding group of firing resistors (*FIG. 3, element RH and column 1, lines 25-35*);

a corresponding group of switches (*FIG. 3, element 18*) controllable to couple a selected firing resistor (*FIG. 3, element RH*) of the group of firing resistors between the internal power supply path and the offset voltage to thereby permit electrical current to pass through the selected firing resistor (*FIG. 3 and column 1, lines 25-35*),

wherein the power regulator further includes a feedback amplifier (*FIG. 3, element 16*) having a first input (*FIG. 3: The positive input of element 16*) coupled to an input offset voltage and a second input (*FIG. 3: The negative input of element 16*) coupled to the feedback, wherein the drive line (*FIG. 3: The output of element 16*),

wherein a selected switch corresponding to a selected firing resistor has a control gate controlled by the drive line (*FIG. 3: The gate of element 18*);

wherein the selected firing resistor of the group of firing resistors includes a first terminal and a second terminal coupled to the feedback line, wherein the drive line provides the offset voltage to the feedback line and the second terminal of the selected firing resistor through the selected switch (FIG. 13: The offset voltage outputted from element 16 is provided to the feedback line and the resistor RH through the switch 18).

Bohorquez does not disclose wherein the power regulator provides the offset voltage ***from the internal power supply path voltage***. In other words, Bohorquez does not disclose wherein the power regulator directly connects to the internal power supply path.

Suzuki discloses a printing head driving apparatus for driving printing elements such as a coil in an impact printer (*FIG. 9-10, element 14b*) or a heating resistor in a thermal printer (*FIG. 13, element 41 and column 7, lines 25-31*). The apparatus has an internal power supply path (*FIG. 9-10, element Vcc*) and a power regulator (*FIG. 9-10, elements 29-30 or 32-33*) directly connecting to the internal power supply path *Vcc* for sensing the variation of the power supply to provide a signal for controlling the driving of printing elements in accordance to variations in the power source voltage (*FIG. 9-10: The voltage at the input of the op-amp 31*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the power regulator disclosed by Bohorquez such as the power regulator provides the offset voltage from the internal power supply path voltage or directly connects to the internal power supply path as disclosed by Suzuki. The motivation of doing so is to drive the printing elements in accordance to variations in the power source voltage in order to gain printing quality as taught by Suzuki (*column 2, lines 36-45*).

In addition, Bohorquez does not disclose a self-calibration circuit adapted to determine a regulation band of the power regulator defined by a lower set point offset voltage and an upper set point offset voltage.

Doluca discloses a power regulator that includes a self-calibration circuit adapted to determine a regulation band of the power regulator defined by a lower set point offset voltage and an upper set point offset voltage (*FIG. 3, elements 310, 300, and 320*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the power regulator in the printing system disclosed by Bohorquez such as including a self-calibration circuit adapted to determine a regulation band of the power regulator defined by a lower set point offset voltage and an upper set point offset voltage as disclosed by Doluca. The motivation of doing so is to obtain "programmable voltage regulators that are used to provide output voltages that can be set to provide the output voltage required" as taught by Doluca (*column 1, line 25-28*).

Finally, Bohorquez does not disclose wherein the selected switch is coupled between the internal power supply path and the second terminal of the selected firing resistor.

Sculley et al. discloses an output driver circuit having a switch (*FIG. 2, element 28*) and a feed back amplifier (*FIG. 2, element 26*), wherein the switch is coupled between an internal power supply path (*FIG. 2, element VDD*) and a terminal of a load resistor (*FIG. 2: The resistor*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the power regulator disclosed by Bohorquez to couple the switch between the internal power supply path and the firing/load resistor (the source-follower configuration) instead of between the resistor and the ground (the collector-follower configuration) as disclosed by Sculley et al. since the two configurations are used alternatively as a common technique well known in the art.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claim 4 is allowed and the reason for allowance is indicated in the previous office action.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LAM S NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571)272-2151. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00AM - 3:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D MEIER can be reached on (571)272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LN
April 20, 2005

Hai Pham

HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER